

DUXBURY FREE LIBRARY

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Duxbury Clipper

'Twilight' frenzy at the library

Thanks to the unusually well-written column in last week's Clipper by Bruce Barrett, "What's Going on Here?" Clipper readers got a peek into the rarefied world of the vampire book craze that has swept the country and the world. Bravo to Bruce! I'd like to share with everyone some of the encouraging news about reading from my vantage point as your town's librarian for teens. First of all, lots of teens are reading! I know we don't hear that news often, but it is true. Especially when a teen gets a book recommended to him or her by a peer, that teen is galvanized to spend the next day or week with their nose firmly planted in the pages of a book. This summer, the teen literature circulation at the Duxbury Free Library has been off the charts!

Just like Harry Potter a few years before, the Stephanie Meyer's Twilight series has been flying off the shelves and passed around from one

sweaty hand to another. Boys are getting into it as well as girls. Just one title like this can turn a non-reader into a reader and my big message to all of them is, "We have more where that came from!" A list of popular titles called "Books with Bite" is being heavily promoted nationwide by the American Library Association and we here in Duxbury have almost every title on that list!

So if your teen is re-reading the Twilight series (a popular and great reading reinforcer by-the-way) tell them that we have a collection that might be great as a follow-up. According to a survey done this year for Scholastic Books by the Yankelovich consumer research group, a majority of kids ages 5-17 say they like to read for fun and that they know that reading correlates with future success. One problem is that reading frequency declines after the age of eight. The rate of reading a book not required for school declines as they children their teen

years. One of my professional goals is to help teens find the next book they want to read. Making lists of "might want to check out" books recommended by peers, librarians, parents and teachers is one way. Browsing the shelves of the library and book stores is another. Going online to helpful web sites is yet another. We at the Duxbury Free Library are expanding our readers advisory services through a new product called BookLetters. You can see it and sign up for it on our web site: duxbury-freelibrary.org.

Finally, my message is, help your teen make time in his/her life for pleasure reading. Making reading a habit will reap rewards both tangible and intangible for years to come.

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